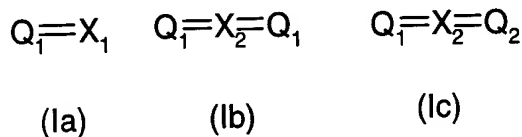


Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

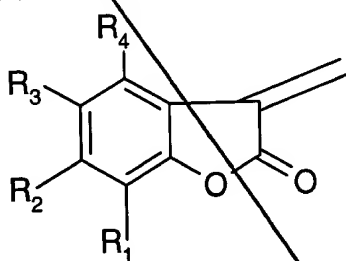
Amend claims 1, 3, 12 and 13 by replacement as follows:

1. (amended) A compound of the formula (Ia), (Ib) or (Ic)

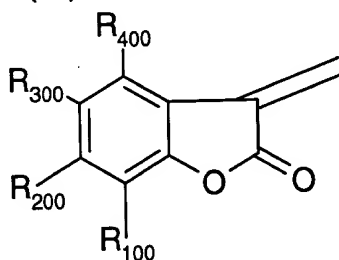


in which

Q_1 is a benzofuran-2-one of the formula (IIa), and
 Q_2 is a benzofuran-2-one of the formula (IIb)



(IIa)



(IIb)

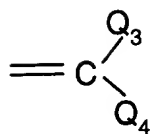
in which

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_{100}, R_{200}, R_{300}$ or R_{400} independently of one another are hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, ether, nitro, an amine, amide, imine, urethane, sulfonamide, ester, carboxylic acid or sulfonic acid radical or carboxylic salt, sulfonic salt or substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkylthio, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkylthio, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryloxy, C_6 - C_{24} arylthio, A_5 - A_{18} heteroaryl, A_5 - A_{18} heteroaryloxy or A_5 - A_{18} heteroarylthio, or

R_1 and R_2, R_2 and R_3, R_3 and R_4 or R_{100} and R_{200}, R_{200} and R_{300}, R_{300} and R_{400} independently of one another in each case together are divalent, substituted or unsubstituted radicals, such as polycyclic radicals or 1,3-butadien-1,4-ylene or $-CH=CH-NH-$, the two last radicals forming an additional fused-on 5- or 6-membered ring, and

X_1 is a hydrazone or imine radical, with the proviso that, if R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen, or at least one R_1, R_2, R_3 or R_4 is methyl, the hydrazone radical is excluded, or, if R_1, R_2, R_3 or R_4 is hydrogen, X_1 is not phenylimine- or 4-dimethylamine-phenylimine, or X_1 is a methylene radical,

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in which

Q_3 is a substituted or unsubstituted primary or secondary amine radical and Q_4 is hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $-\text{CO}-(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}\text{alkyl})$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}\text{alkyl})$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkylthio,

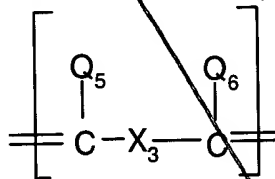
$\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkoxy, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylthio, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryl, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}\text{aryl})$, $-\text{CO}-(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}\text{aryl})$, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryloxy, a primary or secondary amine radical, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{12}$ arylthio, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{25}$ aralkyl, $\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18}$ heteroaryl, $\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18}$ heteroaryloxy or $\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18}$ heteroarylthio, or

Q_3 and Q_4 together are a lactam, quinomethylene, hydantoin, acenaphthenequinone, azlactone, pyrazolonyl, barbituric acid, isoindolinone or isoindoline radical,

with the proviso that

Q_4 is not hydrogen and if R_3 is hydrogen, methoxy or hydroxyl and R_1 , R_2 and R_4 are hydrogen, or Q_4 is not hydrogen and Q_3 is not a secondary amine radical if R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen, and

X_2 is a tetravalent 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, or is



in which

X_3 is a single bond, unsubstituted or substituted $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ arylene, $\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18}$ heteroarylene,

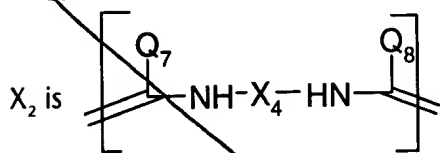
1,2-phenylene, 1,3-phenylene, 1,4-phenylene or naphthylene, or a tetravalent polyether, polyimine, polyamine radical, or $\text{bi}(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24})$ arylene, $\text{bi}(\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18})$ heteroarylene, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ alkenylene, in which $\text{bi}(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24})$ arylene, $\text{bi}(\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18})$ heteroarylene or $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ alkenylene can be interrupted by one or more intermediate units such as $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, $-\text{N}=\text{N}-$, $-\text{CR}_{44}\text{R}_{42}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{NR}_{42}\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CONR}_{42}-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{SO}-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$ or $-\text{NR}_{42}-$,

in which

R_{42} and R_{44} independently of one another are hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{25}$ aralkyl or $\text{A}_5\text{-A}_{18}$ heteroaryl with the proviso that if R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_{100} , R_{200} , R_{300} , R_{400} are all tert-butyl or hydrogen and Q_5 and Q_6 are hydrogen, X_3 is not 1,4-phenylene, and

Q_5 and Q_6 independently of one another are hydrogen, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryloxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkylthio, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkoxy, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylthio, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{24}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ arylthio,

Sub B1
 C_{24} aryl, C_6-C_{24} aryloxy, C_6-C_{24} arylthio or A_5-A_{18} heteroaryl, A_5-A_{18} heteroaryloxy, A_5-A_{18} heteroarylthio,

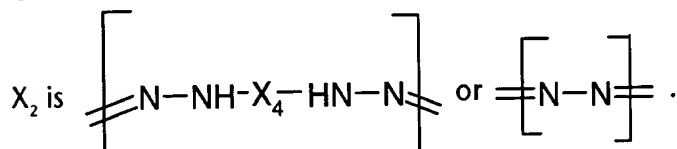


in which

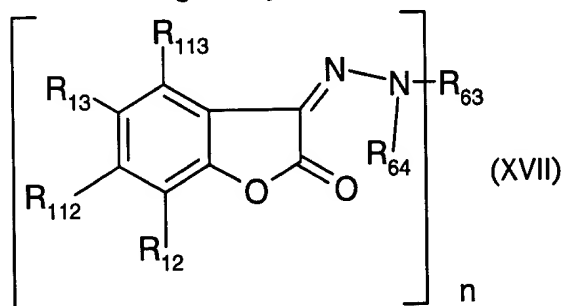
Q_7 and Q_8 independently of one another are Q_5 or Q_6 , and

X_4 is C_6-C_{24} arylene, A_5-A_{18} heteroarylene, a polymethyldiene or divalent polyether, polyimine, polyamine radical, or $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene, C_2-C_{24} alkenylene, in which $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene or C_2-C_{24} alkenylene can be interrupted by one or more intermediate units such as $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=N-$, $-CR_{44}R_{42}-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-NR_{42}CO-$, $-CONR_{42}-$, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR_{42}-$,

or



3. (amended) A compound according to any one of claims 1 and 2, of the formula (XVII)



A2
in which,

if n is 1

R_{64} independently of R_{63} is a radical as defined under R_{63} or is hydrogen, and

R_{63} is substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_5-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl,

C_6-C_{12} aryl, C_7-C_{13} aralkyl, or A_5-A_{12} heteroaryl, and

if n is 2

R_{63} is unsubstituted or substituted C_6-C_{18} arylene, A_5-A_{18} heteroarylene, C_5-C_6 cycloalkyl or a divalent polymethyldiene, polyether, polyimine, polyamine radical, or $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene,

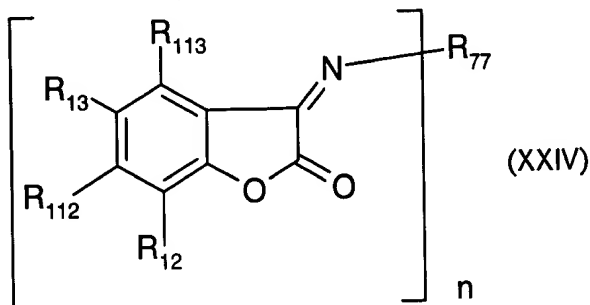
$bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene, C_2-C_{24} alkenylene, in which

$bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene or C_2-C_{24} alkenylene can be interrupted and/or connected

to one another by a direct bond or by one or more intermediate units such as $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, $-\text{N}=\text{N}-$, $-\text{CR}_{44}\text{R}_{42}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{NR}_{42}\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CONR}_{42}-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{SO}-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$ or $-\text{NR}_{42}-$, with the proviso that if R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{112} and R_{113} are hydrogen or at least one R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{112} and R_{113} is methyl, the hydrazone radical is excluded,

or

a compound of the formula (XXIV)



in which, if n is 1,

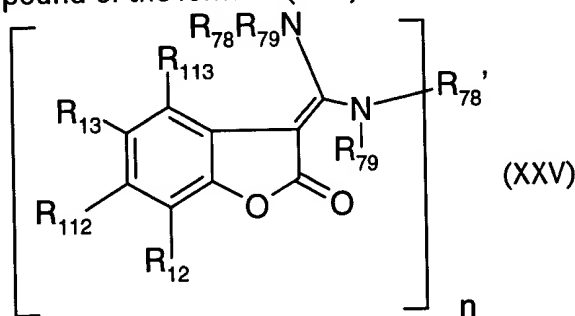
R_{77} is substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_5 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl,

C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_7 - C_{13} aralkyl or A_5 - A_{12} heteroaryl, with the proviso that in formula (XXIV), if R_{12} , R_{112} , R_{13}

or R_{113} are hydrogen, R_{77} is not unsubstituted phenylimine or 4-dimethylaminephenylimine,

or

a compound of the formula (XXV)



in which

if n is 1

R_{78} , R_{78}' and R_{79} independently of one another are hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted

C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylthio, C_5 - C_6 cycloalkoxy,

C_5 - C_6 cycloalkylthio, C_6 - C_{24} aryloxy, C_6 - C_{24} arylthio or A_5 - A_{12} heteroaryloxy, A_5 - A_{12} heteroarylthio, C_5 -

C_6 cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_7 - C_{13} aralkyl, or A_5 - A_{12} heteroaryl, or dependently of one another are hydrogen, and

if n is 2

R_{78} and R_{79} are as defined above when n is 1, and

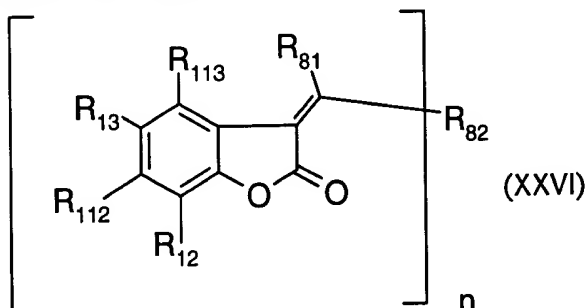
R_{78}' is a direct bond or substituted or unsubstituted C_6 - C_{24} arylene, A_5 - A_{18} heteroarylene, C_5 -

C_{12} cycloalkyl or $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene, C_2-C_{24} alkenylene, in which $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene, C_2-C_{24} alkenylene can be interrupted by a direct bond or by one or more intermediate units such as $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=N-$, $-CR_{44}R_{42}-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-NR_{42}CO-$, $-CONR_{42}-$, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR_{42}-$,

in which

R_{42} and R_{44} independently of one another are hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{24} alkyl, C_5-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2-C_{24} alkenyl, C_6-C_{24} aryl, C_7-C_{25} aralkyl, or A_5-A_{18} heteroaryl, or

a compound of the formula (XXVI)



in which

if n is 1

R_{81} is a substituted or unsubstituted primary or secondary amine radical and R_{82} is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, $-CO-(C_1-C_{24})$ alkyl, $-CO-O-(C_1-C_{24})$ alkyl, C_6-C_{12} aryloxy, C_1-C_{12} alkoxy, C_1-C_{12} alkylthio, C_5-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_5-C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, a primary or secondary amine radical, C_6-C_{18} aryl, $-CO-O-(C_6-C_{24})$ aryl, $-CO-(C_6-C_{24})$ aryl, C_6-C_{18} aryloxy, C_6-C_{18} arylthio or A_5-A_{12} heteroaryl, A_5-A_{12} heteroaryloxy, A_5-A_{12} heteroarylthio, or R_{81} and R_{82} together are a lactam, quinomethylene, hydantoin, acenaphthenequinone, azlactone, pyrazolonyl, barbituric acid, isoindolinone or isoindoline radical,

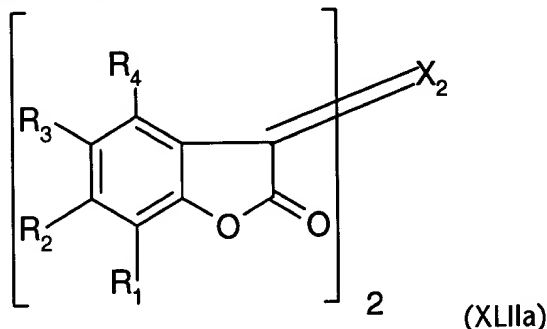
with the proviso that R_{82} is not hydrogen and R_{81} is not a primary or secondary amine radical if R_{13} is hydrogen, methoxy or hydroxyl and R_{12} , R_{112} and R_{113} are hydrogen, or R_{82} is not hydrogen and R_{81} is not a secondary amine radical if R_{12} , R_{112} , R_{13} and R_{113} are hydrogen, and

if n is 2

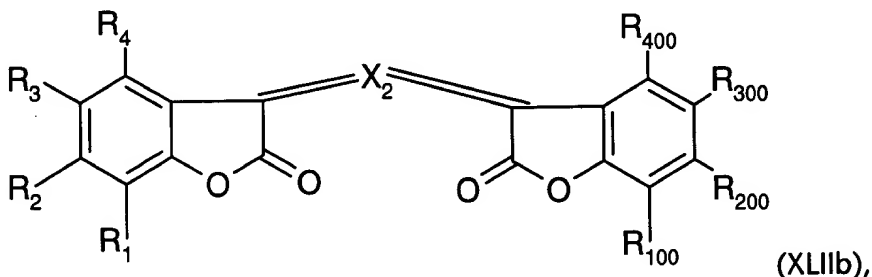
R_{82} is a single bond, an unsubstituted or substituted C_6-C_{18} arylene, especially 1,2-phenylene, 1,3-phenylene, 1,4-phenylene or naphthylene or (A_5-A_{18}) heteroarylene or $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, especially biphenylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene, C_2-C_{24} alkenylene, in which $bi(C_6-C_{24})$ arylene, $bi(A_5-A_{18})$ heteroarylene or C_2-C_{24} alkenylene, can be interrupted by one or more intermediate units such as $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=N-$, $-CR_{44}R_{42}-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-NR_{42}CO-$, $-CONR_{42}-$, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR_{42}-$,
in which

A²
 R_{42} and R_{44} independently of one another are hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, or A_5 - A_{18} heteroaryl with the proviso that if R_{12} , R_{112} , R_{13} , R_{113} and R_{81} are hydrogen, R_{82} is not 1,4-phenylene.

12. (amended) A composition consisting of from 2 to 10, preferably 2 or 3, compounds of the formulae (Ia), (Ib) and/or (Ic) according to claim 1, and/or (XLla) and/or (XLlb) according to claim 9, and/or dimeric benzofuran-2-ones of the formulae (XLIIa) and/or (XLIIb)



or



in which

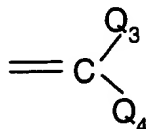
X_2 is (C_6-C_{24}) arylene, (A_5-A_{18}) heteroarylene or a divalent polymethylenide, polyether, polyimine, polyamine radical, or bi (C_6-C_{24}) arylene or bi (A_5-A_{18}) heteroarylene, the bi (C_6-C_{24}) arylene or bi (A_5-A_{18}) heteroarylene radical being attached directly or via a substituted or unsubstituted carbon, nitrogen, oxygen or $(-N=N-)$ -diradical, with the proviso that if R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_{100} , R_{200} , R_{300} and R_{400} are hydrogen, X_2 is not $CH-(C_6H_4)-CH$.

13. (amended) A composition of matter comprising a high molecular weight organic material and a compound of the formula (Ia) according to claim 1

in which

X_1 is X_{10} , where X_{10} is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrazone or imine radical, or

is a methylene radical



in which

Q₃ and Q₄ are Q₆ and Q₇ and independently of one another are hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₄alkyl, -CO-(C₁-C₂₄alkyl), -CO-O-(C₁-C₂₄alkyl), C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkylthio, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylthio, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, a primary or secondary amine radical, C₆-C₂₄aryl, -CO-O-(C₆-C₂₄aryl), -CO-(C₆-C₂₄aryl), C₆-C₂₄aryloxy, C₆-C₁₂arylthio, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl or A₅-A₁₈heteroaryl, or

Q₃ and Q₄ together are a lactam, quinomethylene, hydantoin, acenaphthenequinone, azlactone, pyrazolonyl, barbituric acid, isoindolinone or isoindoline radical,

or

a composition according to claim 12, (XLIa) or (XLIb) according to claim 9, in a colouring effective amount.